



2018 Year-End Program Review





Along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), 2018 was another great year of accomplishments for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and its partners.

Accomplishments focused on:

- 1 – Uplifting and empowering employees and volunteers through a respectful, safe working environment;
- 2 – Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service;
- 3 – Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism;
- 4 – Improving the condition of forests and grasslands;
- 5 – Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustaining infrastructure; and
- 6 – Contributing to the economic health of rural communities through use and access opportunities.

1 Uplifting and Empowering Employees and Volunteers Through a Respectful, Safe Working Environment

The Pacific Crest Trail Association and its agency partners—U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service), Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and California State Parks—understand that taking care of a 2,650-mile trail requires an engaged, diverse and resilient network of agency partners and volunteers.

The PCTA's professional Trail Operations staff—including a Trail Operations Director, Associate Director of Trail Operations, five Regional Representatives, and two Volunteer Programs staff—not only oversees protection, management, and maintenance of the PCT but spends a significant amount of time maintaining and building partnerships that strengthen resources and a skilled volunteer base for the trail.

While the PCTA works with multiple agency partners in the management of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the Forest Service is the lead administering agency for the PCT which the PCTA works with most closely on a day-to-day basis at all levels. Whether supporting the work of the PCT Program Manager at the Pacific Southwest Regional Office or working alongside District Recreation staff to efficiently manage the PCT at the project level, mutual respect and collaboration are evident in work accomplished.

Through professional staff and a dedicated volunteer base, the PCTA has built long-term working partnerships with agency staff who are committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting the PCT. Federal public lands managers are challenged with a wide array of management issues with a limited workforce. Organizations such as the PCTA stand ready and willing to support the unique work of managing a national scenic trail. One way the PCTA does this is by effectively managing volunteers to do safe and quality work.



Safety is the highest priority for PCTA staff, volunteers, and partners. Prior to on-trail activity, volunteers submit trailhead communication plans to local agency units, conduct tailgate safety sessions to review job hazard analyses and an emergency action plan. They carry first aid kits with injury instructions and the required injury report forms.

In 2018, 2215 volunteers and corps crew members contributed to the protection, preservation and promotion of the PCT. Much work is accomplished on remote, rugged trail. Accordingly, safety is the highest priority for the PCTA staff, volunteers and partners.

Trail Skills College

The PCTA's training program, Trail Skills College, ensures volunteers build the skills necessary to be safe, successful and efficient trail stewards. The Trail Skills College program was started with a grant from REI in collaboration with nonprofit and agency partners. It uses a modular course curriculum taught at multiple events along the PCT.

2018 PCTA Sponsored Trail Skills College Trainings

Number of chain and crosscut saw training events hosted	23
Number of volunteers attending chain or crosscut saw training	226
Number of other trail skills training hosted	32
Number of volunteers attending other trail skills training	693

PCTA staff, nonprofit partners, agency staff, and most notably, volunteers, serve as instructors to new and returning volunteers eager to increase their trail maintenance knowledge and skills. The PCT serves as the classroom for the courses, and topics range from brushing and scouting to tread reconstruction and leading crews. Trail Skills College also offers saw training and certification courses conducted by volunteer saw instructors. This unique program is one of the first in the country authorized by the Forest Service and has served as a model for other trail organizations.

In partnership with the Forest Service, the PCTA has developed safety protocols to ensure volunteers are operating to the safest extent possible. Before on-trail activity, volunteers submit trailhead communication plans to local agency units, ensuring partners can communicate with crews in the field and are prepared for incidents. Volunteer trail maintainers also conduct tailgate safety sessions to review job hazard analyses and an emergency action plan. Additionally, they carry first aid kits with injury instructions and the required injury report forms.

The PCTA collects feedback from volunteers, and in 2018 continued to find that volunteers found the work environment safe and enjoyable.



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2 Being Good Neighbors and Providing Excellent Customer Service

As the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail travels 2,650 miles from the Mexico-California border to the Washington-Canada border, it offers access to America's outdoors as it connects some of the most scenic and remote lands in the Western United States. The PCT links diverse landscapes from the Mojave Desert to the rugged peaks in California's Sierra Nevada Range to the volcanic peaks of the Cascade Range.

The PCT is often called "America's Wilderness Trail" and crosses 48 Congressionally-designated wilderness areas. Recreationists from around the world find a unique connection with nature and diverse ecosystems along the PCT as it passes through 25 National Forest units, seven Bureau of Land Management field offices, six National Parks, five California State Park units, five National Monuments and more than 1,500 private properties.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act

Throughout 2018, the PCTA celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Pacific Crest Trail's designation as a National Scenic Trail. The PCT and the Appalachian Trail were our nation's first National Scenic Trails, designated by an extraordinary, bipartisan act of Congress and signed into law as the National Trails System Act by President Lyndon Johnson on October 2, 1968.

On Oct. 2, 2018, the PCTA and Appalachian Trail Conservancy hosted a coast-to-coast celebration. A live webcast of the celebration, hosted by National Geographic Adventurer of the Year and endurance athlete Jennifer Pharr Davis, featured the author and New York Times columnist Cheryl Strayed and a huge variety of guests from every corner of the PCT and AT trail communities including trail volunteers, students, hikers, trail advocates, and more.



In 2018, volunteers contributed 1,013 hours towards outreach, including helping with events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the PCT's designation as a National Scenic Trail. Patches were distributed to 550 volunteers who contributed 50 or more hours to the PCT and partners and donors were given pins and decals to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.

Providing PCT Information to the Public

In addition to its restoration and protection efforts, the PCTA serves as the primary customer service representative for PCT information, connecting recreationists from around the world with one of America's iconic recreation opportunities. The PCTA employs a full-time Trail Information Manager and a part-time Trail Information Assistant, who work with volunteers to act as public resources for PCT information.

The PCTA's extremely active customer service program provides timely direct assistance to tens of thousands of people a year via phone, email, social media and in person. The PCTA assists our land management partners by working across boundaries and providing a single office for trail users to contact for trailwide customer service inquiries. To do this requires collaborating on messaging, priorities and best practices with agency partners up and down the PCT.

2018 Communication Services to the Public and Trail Users

Number of emails responded to	4,173
Number of phone calls responded to	3,373
Number of social media requests responded to	194
Number of PCT brochures distributed	20,055
Number of issues of the <i>PCT Communicator</i> magazine distributed	55,000
Number of wilderness permits issued for PCT travel in excess of 500 miles	4,475
Number of visits to PCTA's website	1,901,005

Another vital customer service role filled by the PCTA is assisting the Forest Service and National Park Service in issuing interagency permits for trips more than 500 miles and providing information about permitting for all recreation users. Each summer, the PCTA coordinates land use regulations and emergency response information. From fire closures to landslides, the PCTA works hard to collect and share crucial information rapidly. The PCTA's touch is also seen in numerous map projects, books, newspaper and magazine articles every year.

There are a number of sources for PCT information overseen by the PCTA, including a comprehensive website, a blog, electronic newsletters and a quarterly magazine that provide up-to-date and historical information encouraging the safe use, enjoyment, protection, and preservation of the PCT. Timely trail information is also available through the PCTA's strong social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other online forums.

In 2018, the PCTA's website received 1,901,005 visits from people all over the country and the world looking to gain additional information about the PCT. While much of this information is focused on trip planning, current trail conditions and trail information, the PCTA provides a tremendous amount of **Leave No Trace (LNT)** education for trail users. This information is aimed at helping people travel responsibly and lightly on the land, thereby reducing their impacts on the trail and protecting it for future PCT travelers. The PCTA also provides trail conditions updates which include trail closures and other relevant user information via a toll-free phone line and website.

PCT Crest Runners and Southern Terminus Trailhead Host

In 2018, PCTA partnered with the Cleveland National Forest, Descanso Ranger District to execute the "Crest Runner" and Southern Terminus "Trailhead Host" programs. These programs are focused on making visitor contacts, sharing LNT and trail information, improving trail user behavior, and reducing physical and social impacts along the PCT corridor. The Crest Runners and Southern Terminus Trailhead Host significantly increase our ability to make on trail contacts with hikers and equestrians. They help the PCTA and the Forest Service better understand how the long-distance permit system is helping to reduce hiker related impacts and inform future management decisions to protect the PCT and resources along the first 100 miles of the trail.

Crest Runners

With support from the PCTA, the Descanso Ranger District hired two Crest Runners in 2018. Similar to wilderness rangers, the Crest Runners roved the PCT between the U.S.-Mexico border and Warner Springs during the peak use season between March and May. They made contact with 639 hikers along the PCT; of these, 465 were long-distances hikers (people intending to hike 500 miles or more), 76 were section hikers, and 98 were day hikers. In their discussions with PCT hikers, the Crest Runners focused on the topics of riparian area sensitivity, fire safety and campfires, safety while hiking the PCT, practicing LNT, campsite selection, and water availability.

Additionally, the Crest Runners monitored trail use patterns and recorded resource impacts in specific locations. They performed campsite inventory assessments at five campsite locations to monitor visitor use impacts throughout the high use season. They also collected information regarding water caches and removed abandoned water at five different sites. Lastly, the Crest Runners removed approximately 200 pounds of trash from along the PCT.

Southern Terminus Trailhead Host

PCTA and the Cleveland National Forest, Descanso Ranger District recruited a volunteer Southern Terminus Trailhead Host to make contact with PCT trail users between March and mid-May.

The PCTA recruited volunteer applicants and provided materials and support for the Trailhead Host, while the District selected the volunteer for the position and provided daily support for the volunteer. The Host made contact with 1,794 long-distance hikers and counted 1,767 long-distance permits. Trail users would voluntarily share their permit with the Trailhead Host.

Based on the information collected by the Host, the PCTA determined that 99% of hikers had obtained a long-distance permit; 89% of long-distance permit holders complied with the start date on their permit.

CREST RUNNERS

REDUCING VISITOR IMPACTS NEAR THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS OF THE PCT

Two Crest Runners roved the southern 109 miles of the PCT during the peak use season.



The Crest Runners made contact with **639 hikers**.
465 were long-distance hikers, **76** were PCT section hikers and **98** were day hikers.



In discussions with hikers, the Crest Runners focused on the topics of riparian area sensitivity, fire safety, safety while hiking the PCT, practicing LNT, campsite selection, and water availability.

They performed campsite inventory assessments at five campsite locations to monitor visitor use impacts throughout the high use season.



200
POUNDS



They removed abandoned water at 5 different water cache sites and approximately 200 pounds of trash along the PCT.

3 Promoting Shared Stewardship by Increasing Partnerships and Volunteerism

The PCTA and its agency partners understand that taking care of a 2,650-mile trail requires engaged, diverse and resilient partnerships. Strengthening and expanding these partnerships is crucial for a sustainable future. Every year the PCTA brings together partners and volunteers with shared values and serves as a liaison between people and our public lands.

Volunteers provide dedication, energy, and assistance, allowing organizations to thrive in a way that would not be possible without them. Each year the Corporation for National and Community Service sets a dollar value on volunteer time. This number is based on the average hourly earnings of non-supervisory, production workers in the United States. According to this value, in 2018 the PCT volunteer community, including non-trail maintenance activities, contributed 118,516 service hours, an in-kind value of \$2.9 million.

Citizen stewards and corps crew members performed the hard, physical labor of annual maintenance and restoration of 1,713 miles of the PCT, giving others the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness while traveling on a safe, passable trail. Stewards cut back overgrown vegetation, cleared fallen logs, constructed rock retaining walls, reconstructed trail tread and built new trail tread.

The bedrock of the PCTA's volunteer program includes 12 community-based volunteer groups dispersed along the trail. Major metropolitan areas source these groups with a solid foundation of committed volunteers as well as trail maintenance novices. PCTA volunteers come from all walks of life, all age groups and a diverse collection of backgrounds. As a result, they contribute to the cultural transformation of these communities by bridging the gap between the great outdoors and those who are disconnected.

2018 TRAIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

113,163

VOLUNTEER AND CORPS CREW HOURS



1 boot = 10,000 hours

1,713

MILES OF TRAIL
MAINTAINED



(That's about the distance between Washington D.C.
and the Four Corners Monument)

\$ 2.9

MILLION

IN-KIND VALUE OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS



2018 Trail Accomplishments

Number of volunteer hours on trail maintenance/reconstruction	113,163
Miles of trail maintained	1,713
Miles of trail reconstructed/constructed	31
Square feet of log & stone cribbing constructed	7,025
Feet of turnpike/puncheon constructed	1,088

The PCTA also works with numerous conservation and volunteer-minded nonprofits and community groups along the trail to ensure the PCT is maintained, protected, and enjoyed. Many of the nonprofit and community organizations the PCTA works with provide local volunteer trail maintenance opportunities, group hikes and youth education.

Washington: Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

In 2018, the PCTA partnered with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and British Columbia Parks to replace the Pacific Crest Trail's Northern Terminus Monument. This tiered structure marks the northern boundary of the trail. Sitting in the border vista between the U.S. and Canada, the monument serves as a sort of bookend for a trail that strings mountain ranges, ecosystems and countries together. Its placement speaks to the vast scale of the PCT. The trail's persistent path, extending 2650 miles south from the monument, is a testament to the passion people feel for PCT and the hard work contributed to its continued stewardship.

The terminus itself is remotely located in the Pasayten Wilderness. PCTA volunteers were granted special permission from the US Border Patrol to access the site from Canada. Manning Provincial Park staff were invaluable partners. BC Parks helicoptered more than 1,000 pounds of lumber and supplies plus the volunteers to a staging area just north of the border. Like so many of the PCTA's efforts, the support of our agency partners along with the energy and craftsmanship of PCTA volunteers made this project successful.

California: Eldorado National Forest

After several years of planning and finalizing the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process, the Eldorado National Forest, the PCTA and the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) began construction on the 1.4 mile reroute project at Echo Summit, high above Lake Tahoe, California. The project was in response to an Optimal Location Review (OLR) completed in 2015, which concluded the experience for hikers and equestrians would be significantly enhanced by moving the trail to a more desirable location that is also sustainable in design. The OLR and reroute address numerous concerns presented by the Eldorado National Forest and the PCTA, which include visual and noise impacts from the adjacent Highway 50, safety issues, and access concerns. Upon the completion of the NEPA process in June, a collaborative effort was put forth between the PCTA and the TRTA to begin construction.

Thus far, the TRTA has put in 2,803 volunteer hours, completing 600 feet of new trail and clearing 4,100 feet of corridor to assist in the continued work of 2019. In 2019, the collaboration of partnerships will grow to include trail crews from the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the American Conservation Experience, much in part due to a private donation for this specific project.



Volunteers from the PCTA's Seattle, Washington-based North 350 Blades chapter replaced the beloved but weathered monument at the Northern Terminus of the PCT. Volunteers and supporters built the new structure, which replicates the monument installed in 1988 to celebrate the PCT's 20th year as a National Scenic Trail. Tens of thousands of hikers will visit the newly restored Northern Terminus Monument in the years to come. They will pose for pictures with it, climb on it, and embrace it in celebration of their journeys. The monument is a symbol of the PCT. It is a place to reflect and relish the gifts of vast public lands and wildness.



The PCTA works with numerous conservation and volunteer-minded nonprofits and community groups along the trail to ensure the PCT is maintained, protected, and enjoyed. On a shared alignment with the PCT and Tahoe Rim Trail, Tahoe Rim Trail Association volunteers contributed 4,207 hours to the trail.



4 Improving the Condition of Forests and Grasslands

A prominent theme throughout the PCTA's work is ensuring a quality recreational experience for PCT users. It's estimated that more than a million people experience the PCT each year, from casual day users to weekend users to thru-hikers and horseback riders. In addition to the impacts from hikers and equestrians, the PCT is subjected to floods, fire, deep snowpack and torrential rain events that cause erosion, make the trail unsafe and impassable and cause ecological damage. Every year, the PCTA coordinates tens of thousands of volunteer hours dedicated to the maintenance and restoration of the PCT to meet national quality standards. The goal of these efforts is to create an excellent wilderness recreation experience that allows Americans to connect with the outdoors.

California: San Bernardino National Forest

2018 was a banner year for work within the Mountain Fire closure area on the San Bernardino National Forest, San Jacinto Ranger District near the town of Idyllwild, Calif. Although the Mountain Fire started and was contained in July 2013, it's taken five seasons of carefully planned work, a thoughtfully executed phased approach and many thousands of corps crew and volunteer hours to get the entire length of the trail re-opened.

The collaboration between the PCTA, Forest Service, ACE and Backcountry Horsemen of California resulted in 512.5 volunteer hours and 2994.5 corps crew hours of work completed in 2018 alone. This translated into 3,711 feet of rehabilitation/reconstruction to the PCT and 837 square feet of stone cribbing built to hold the trail in place.

Although the 2018 season had another fire in the area which burned the PCT, the Cranston Fire, crews were able to rehabilitate that damage as well. The PCTA is pleased to announce that as of December 15, 2018 the entire length of the PCT that was burned or damaged in the 2013 Mountain Fire is now open for public use. The PCTA could not have completed this work without the diligent efforts of the Forest Service partner Andy Smith, a Natural Resource Specialist on the San Bernardino National Forest.

Oregon: Sky Lakes Wilderness

In August 2018, the PCTA partnered with the Fremont-Winema National Forest, the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and the Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon's High Desert Trail Riders to do much needed maintenance on the PCT in the Sky Lakes Wilderness. The Sky Lakes Wilderness is more than 100,000 acres of Wilderness in southwestern Oregon containing spectacular forests dotted with alpine lakes. The 40 miles of PCT passing through the Wilderness offers outstanding opportunities of exploration and solitude for the hiker and stock-user alike.

For the second year in a row, volunteers and agency staff worked side-by-side as they used crosscut saws to log-out the PCT and key access trails while also repairing tread and important drainage structures. A number of wildfires have burned portions of the Wilderness in recent years and the 2017 High Cascades Complex was especially intense in some areas and burned across significant sections of the PCT. The PCTA, Forest Service, and Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon have embarked on a multi-year project to restore segments of the PCT damaged by wildfire.



The Pacific Crest Trail is open again in the Mountain Fire burn area above Idyllwild, Calif., after five years of hard work by the PCTA in partnership with the Forest Service, American Conservation Experience and Backcountry Horsemen of California.



A number of wildfires burned portions of Oregon's Sky Lakes Wilderness in recent years. The 2017 High Cascades Complex was especially intense in some areas and burned across significant sections of the PCT. The PCTA, Forest Service and Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon have embarked on a multi-year project to restore segments of the PCT damaged by wildfire.



Oregon: Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Following the Eagle Creek Fire in the Columbia River Gorge, the PCTA joined together with Trailkeepers of Oregon, Friends of the Gorge, Washington Trails Association, and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area to engage thousands of community members in trail maintenance projects, trainings, and community forums. The PCTA's Portland, Oregon-based Mount Hood Chapter put in more than 10,000 volunteer hours to repair and reopen 14 miles of the PCT plus 32 miles of connected trails within the Eagle Creek Fire burn area.



Washington: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

The fire regime in the forests traversed by the PCT is changing dramatically. Climate models predict that by the end of the century, wildland fires will burn twice as many acres each year on the west side of the Cascades as occurred during an average 20th century fire season. In 2017, the Norse Peak fire burned 55,909 acres of land along the flanks of the Cascades to the northeast of Mount Rainier, Wash. In 2018, PCTA volunteers worked to clear the PCT of charred fallen timber with the help of volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest staff. Continued collaboration will be needed over the next decade as fire-weakened timber will continue fall and clog the trail in this area for years to come.

Land Protection

As part of the PCTA's mission, the association works with landowners, public agencies, conservation organizations and local communities to protect land for the PCT through acquisitions of fee title lands and conservation easements. The PCTA's land protection work is focused on identifying high-priority tracts for permanent protection through a PCT Lands Inventory. The land inventory enables the PCTA and agency partners to identify and prioritize properties that are at risk. Purchasing these parcels over time creates a cohesive and continuous PCT experience. Furthermore, filling these gaps reduces the cost and improves management of the PCT by eliminating miles of public/private boundaries.

While the PCTA works to identify and acquire (or assist in the acquisition of) properties along the Pacific Crest Trail, we do not seek permanent ownership of these properties. Acquisitions typically involve partnerships with federal agencies, land trusts, or other entities for whom long-term land ownership is more appropriate and inline with the agency or organization's mission. In 2018, the PCTA successfully transferred three properties purchased in 2016 and 2017 to the Forest Service including: Donomore Meadows (160 acres in Siskiyou County, Calif.), Landers Meadow (245 acres in Kern County, Calif.), and Stevens Pass (402 acres in Chelan County, Wash.).

Through the combined work of the PCTA, Anza-Borrego Foundation, Pacific Forest Trust, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, and the Forest Service, 3,107 acres were acquired in fee-title or permanently protected through conservation easements along the PCT. These acquisitions protected one mile of the PCT trail tread; the viewshed along six additional miles of the PCT; 3,080 acres of habitat for federally listed species; and 28 miles of streams that provide habitat for salmon, steelhead and bull trout.



In 2018, PCTA transferred 807 acres to the Forest Service for permanent protection of the PCT including Landers Meadow.



Trail Protection

As the government's primary partner in the management of the PCT, the PCTA tracks and favorably influences a large percentage of the planning processes that affect the trail. Through these efforts, the PCTA is poised to support the land management agencies in making decisions that protect the PCT experience for future generations.

Central Cascades Wilderness Study

The PCTA submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Central Cascades Wilderness Project, which proposes a Limited Entry permit system affecting three Wilderness areas in Oregon. The PCTA had several meetings with local Forest Service planners as they prepared this proposal, and as a result, holders of the PCT long-distance permit (500 miles or more) are planned for an exemption from proposed quotas. As this decision process is finalized, the PCTA is urging the forests to simplify the process for trail volunteers, and for shorter-distance travelers crossing multiple wilderness boundaries.

Reducing Visitor Use Impacts Through Research

The PCTA, in conjunction with our agency partners, has continued research efforts to better understand numbers of hikers and horseback riders along the length of the PCT. As the PCT has become more popular in recent years, understanding use levels and patterns has become ever more important to help us make informed decisions to protect the natural resources along the trail as well as the trail experience for future hikers and equestrians.

Campsite selection by PCT users has significant potential to affect the PCT and trail experience. The PCTA and the Forest Service have partnered with Dr. Jeff Marion from Virginia Tech to study the impacts of campsites on the physical resources and trail experience along the PCT. In 2018, Dr. Marion and some of his graduate students visited Desolation Wilderness on the Eldorado National Forest in California and in North Cascades National Park in Washington. The work focused on evaluating existing campsites, which were primarily user selected and created, documenting the levels of impact at the existing sites, as well as the potential for site expansion and additional resource damage. One of the goals of this research is to help smartphone app developers distribute campsite information recommended by the PCTA and the local agency units.

The PCTA and the Forest Service has partnered with researchers Dr. Jeremy Whimpey and Dr. Nathan Reigner from Applied Trails Research to better understand use levels and travel patterns, specifically trying to better understand permit utilization and attrition rates of long-distance travelers. Through this work, the researchers have begun to paint a picture of use levels along the PCT, when and why people tend to skip sections, and where attrition rates are often occurring. This work helps us better understand accurate use levels, rather than just judging use based on numbers of permits issued.

As part of better understanding travel patterns, the PCTA started a Visitor Use Management (VUM) trail register program. In 2018, the first of six registers was installed on the Hat Creek Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest. The register sheets were developed in partnership with researchers and agency staff and are aimed at collecting qualitative data such as direction of travel, trip start date and location, and intended ending location. Additionally, field monitoring and a trail counter were incorporated into the program to calibrate quantitative data collected by the register.

5 Enhancing Recreation Opportunities, Improving Access, and Sustaining Infrastructure

As recreation comprises an ever-larger portion of the overall use of public lands, people expect and deserve excellent access. Trails in good repair are an essential facility. Trails that are overgrown, poorly signed and eroded do not meet expectations and contribute to outsized visitor impacts. Land managers can not provide good customer service without addressing the enormous backlog of deferred trail maintenance on public lands. The PCTA addresses deferred maintenance on the PCT through two significant efforts: a section adopter program, and a corps crew program.

The section adopter program matches miles of the PCT with community-based volunteer groups for completion of annual maintenance tasks such as log out and drain clearing. Every year, the PCTA trains hundreds of volunteers in yearly maintenance and provides the tools and safety gear necessary for them to go out and take care of a segment of trail. The PCTA believes regular, ongoing care is the only way to prevent significant trail deterioration that eventually will require more costly, time-consuming and significant reconstruction efforts. The PCTA is putting more and more resources into recruiting section adopters with the goal of eliminating the backlog of deferred maintenance.

Meanwhile, the PCTA works with corps crews and volunteers to address the existing backlog of trail maintenance and reconstruction. There are miles of trail that are deeply rutted, badly overgrown, or where the failed tread needs significant reconstruction to return it to specifications. The PCTA works with agency partners and local volunteer leaders to identify and prioritize the worst areas, then sets up projects that are a week long or longer under the supervision of highly skilled technical advisors hired by the PCTA. These crews build retaining walls and turnpikes, re-bench tread, and build new structures and trail tread.



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Oregon: Mount Jefferson Wilderness

Several years in the making, the PCTA is proud to construct and open several short segments of realigned PCT near Mount Jefferson, Oregon. These replace perennially troubled spots where erosion was becoming severe, and not responding to normal drainage strategies. In 2016, the PCTA raised private funding for the NEPA study, which was completed by agency partners. Construction began in 2017.

In 2018, Northwest Youth Corps and PCTA volunteers contributed 4,613 hours on backcountry crews. They built 9,298 feet of new trail along six separate realigned segments. These realignments provide a higher quality trail experience, and, through proper design and construction, substantially decrease the maintenance needs within the project areas.



In the beautiful sub-alpine meadows of Oregon's Mount Jefferson Wilderness, several small pieces of the trail have suffered worsening erosion for years, having become deep gullies of rocks and roots. These segments of the PCT catch water from spring snowmelt, and sediment makes its way to nearby streams and lakes. In 2018, the PCTA constructed and opened 9,298 feet of new, sustainable trail. PCT reconstruction projects are crucial in reestablishing the ecological patterns and processes that facilitate terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems sustainability, resilience and health.

California: Tahoe National Forest

The Sierra Buttes Realignment Project is a continued effort from previous years, beginning in the summer of 2014. The project was a result of an Optimal Location Review (OLR) conducted in 2011 by the Tahoe National Forest and the PCTA. The purpose of the project was to separate and reduce user conflicts in the area, provide access to scenic alpine lakes and provide a superior and remote trail experience. Each season about one-half mile of new trail was constructed through extremely steep and rocky terrain.

"In the Sierra Buttes, Bob, another volunteer, said before leaving 'I got more than I gave' and I couldn't agree more. And that's saying something, because by any metric – tonnage of rock/dirt moved, gallons of water consumed, millimeters of dirt caked to my face, or potency of body odor – I was working just about as hard as I ever have."

– Nick Klein-Baer, volunteer

In 2018, The Tahoe National Forest, the PCTA and American Conservation Experience (ACE) crews continued the work and constructed over one-half mile of new trail and completed over a quarter-mile of trail reconstruction. Additionally, 400 feet of older, unsustainable trail was decommissioned and restored. This season had 1,231 volunteer hours and 2,618 corps crew hours dedicated to the Sierra Buttes Realignment project.

6 Contributing to the economic health of rural communities through use and access opportunities

Towns located near the PCT offer an extraordinary asset to people: gateway access to America's greatest wilderness experience—the world-renowned Pacific Crest Trail. Towns can leverage this asset for all the benefits associated with the \$887 billion U.S. outdoor recreation economy.

Pacific Crest Trail Town Pilot Program

In 2017 and 2018, the PCTA partnered with the city of Mount Shasta in Siskiyou County, Calif., to pilot a Trail Town program. A committee made up of local businesses, elected officials, nonprofits, the Chamber of Commerce and community members was established to work with the PCTA to implement this pilot program. On July 21, 2018, an event was held to celebrate Mount Shasta's status as the PCTA's first official Pacific Crest Trail Town. The event included guided hikes on the PCT, a street fair on closed Mount Shasta Boulevard, a ceremony, and live music into the evening.

Speakers at the ceremony included PCTA Executive Director and CEO Liz Bergeron, Shasta-Trinity National Forest District Ranger Carolyn Napper, Siskiyou County Administrator Ed Valenzuela and Barry Price of the Mount Shasta Trail Association. The ceremony concluded with a special announcement of \$50,000 in funding from the Forest Service and the Mount Shasta Trail Association for new restroom facilities at the Parks Creek trailhead on the PCT.



On July 21, 2018, the PCTA co-hosted an event to celebrate Mt. Shasta's status as the PCTA's first official Pacific Crest Trail Town. After a guided hike on the PCT, crowds filled Mount Shasta Boulevard in downtown Mount Shasta, Calif. for food, games and to learn about all the trail-based recreation in the region. As the Trail Town program grows, the PCTA hopes to strengthen ties with many rural communities and raise greater awareness of the PCT as a recreational resource for all people.



2018 Accomplishments Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Connect People to the Outdoors Though Volunteer Stewardship

Provide volunteer support to organize and execute projects

PCTA staff hours spent on volunteer programs	14,151
New trainings posted online	20
New volunteer projects posted online.....	98
Volunteer project email announcements sent.....	73
New volunteers	882
Returning volunteers	1,333
Tool caches.....	44
Inventory of tools and equipment.....	<i>Separate report submitted</i>
Weeks JHA is posted online	52
High school programs contacted	2
University programs contacted.....	6

Report on all volunteer and corps crew service hours and accomplishments

Volunteer hours for financial match.....	<i>Separate report submitted</i>
Volunteer hours for trail maintenance activities	113,163
Volunteer hours for land protection activities	123
Volunteer hours for administrative activities.....	1,304
Volunteer hours for governance and committee activities.....	1,473
Volunteer hours for communications and publications.....	322





Volunteers reflecting age, gender, and ethnicity:

Age	
Under 18	74
18-54	552
55+	582
Unknown	973
Declined to Answer	34
Total	2,215

Ethnicity	
White (non-Hispanic)	963
Black (non-Hispanic)	6
Hispanic	72
Native American/ Alaskan Native	7
Asian/Pacific Islander	38
Unknown	982
Declined to Answer	147
Total	2,215

Gender	
Male	905
Female	483
Unknown	821
Declined to Answer	6
Total	2,215

PCTA-affiliated youth corps volunteer hours	24,668
PCTA-affiliated high school volunteer hours	2,910
Miles of trail maintained	1,713
Miles reconstructed/constructed.....	31
Trailhead kiosks constructed.....	0
Square feet of log cribbing constructed.....	166
Square feet of stone cribbing constructed	6,859
Bridges constructed (greater than 20' long, 5' off the deck)	4
Feet of turnpike/puncheon constructed	1,088



Sponsor volunteer training opportunities

PCTA staff hours spent on trainings	2,072
Volunteers attending Basic or Wilderness First Aid	49
Basic or Wilderness First Aid trainings hosted	5
Volunteers attending crosscut and/or chain saw training	226
Crosscut and/or chain saw trainings hosted	23
Number of volunteers attending other trail skills training	693
Other trail skills trainings hosted	32

Coordinate with the PCT Program Manager and agency units

Agency partner meetings to coordinate field program of work:

	Local	Unit	Regional/ Trailwide	Total
U.S. Forest Service	129	52	34	215
Bureau of Land Management	4	6	9	19
National Park Service	2	5	1	8
Other	5	1	--	6
Total	140	64	44	248

Provide Trail and Land Management Support

PCTA staff hours spent on trail planning and protection	2,191
PCTA staff hours spent providing technical assistance	964

Increase Access to and Protection of the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Qualities of the PCT by Conserving Open Space through Land Acquisition

Number of PCTA staff hours spent on coordinating land acquisition projects	2,267
Number of acres acquired	3,504

Benefits to the Public & Trail Communities

Respond to inquiries from the public and trail users regarding the PCT

Emails responded to.....	4,173
Phone calls responded to	3,373
Social media requests responded to.....	194
Media requests responded to.....	51

Provide trail condition information

Updates to the toll-free telephone line	4
Calls made to the toll-free telephone line	4,028

Publish a periodic magazine

Copies of the <i>PCT Communicator</i> magazine distributed	55,000
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Maintain a website

Website visits	1,901,005
Updates to the Trail Conditions pages	47

Promote PCT at events

Conferences and outreach events attended.....	77
PCTA staff hours spent planning or participating in events.....	1,662
PCTA volunteer hours spent planning or participating in events	1,013

Issue long distance permits

Wilderness permits issued for travel in excess of 500 miles	4,475
Mt. Whitney climbing permits issued.....	887

Distribute PCT brochures

Map brochures distributed.....	20,055
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2018 Volunteer & Corps Crew Hours



Maintenance Program Hours

Southern California Region

American Conservation Experience	7,645
California Conservation Corps.....	5,240
Environmental Charter School.....	853
PCTA Trail Gorillas.....	12,279
William S. Hart High School.....	445
Miscellaneous Region Projects	986

Southern Sierra Region

American Conservation Experience	430
California Conservation Corps.....	666
Can Do Crew	2,492
Miscellaneous Region Projects	3,395

Northern Sierra Region

American Conservation Experience	4,199
PCTA Carsonora Trail Crew.....	702
PCTA Pounder's Promise	3,370
PCTA Tahoe Area Volunteers.....	103
PCTA Will Work for Krumms Trail Crew	1,597
Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship.....	800
Tahoe Rim Trail Association	4,207
Miscellaneous Region Projects	1,519

Big Bend Region

American Conservation Experience	417
Ashland Woodland & Trails Association	46
Backcountry Horsemen of California: Top of State ...	345
PCTA Lyons Pride	1,137
PCTA NorCal Trail Crew	37
PCTA Southern Oregon Rockers.....	1,055
Miscellaneous Region Projects	2,101

Columbia Cascades Region

Northwest Youth Corps.....	4,308
PCTA Mid-Oregon Volunteers.....	7,318
PCTA Mt. Hood Chapter.....	22,622
PCTA Skyline/Sasquatch Crews.....	3,299
Miscellaneous Region Projects	131

North Cascades Region

PCTA North 350 Blades	8,935
PCTA White Pass Chapter.....	3,026
Pacific Northwest Trail Association	483
Washington Conservation Corps.....	560
Washington Trails Association	5,981
Miscellaneous Region Projects	56

Trailwide Miscellaneous

Total PCT Maintenance Hours..... 113,163

Non-Maintenance Programs Hours

Administrative.....	1,304
Advocacy.....	497
Governance	1,473
Land Protection	123
Outreach.....	1,013
Publications	322
Trail Protection	56
Visitor Use Management.....	565

Total Non-Maintenance Hours.....5,353

Total Service Hours.....118,516

